(vi) Ireland

(vii) Israel

(viii) Italy

(ix) Netherlands

(x) New Zealand

(xi) Portugal

(xii) Republic of Cyprus

(xiii) Sweden

(xiv) Switzerland

(xv) United Kingdom

(xvi) United States of America

(c) MHA has received nearly 2000 applications from the concerned Missions/Posts.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The application form and the procedure for the Overseas Indian Citizenship Certificate are being revised/simplified by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Hence it was decided to put the scheme on hold to enable all the applicants to avail of the revised application form and the simplified procedure.

Core Group on Administrative Reforms

3790. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Core Group on Administrative Reforms; and

(b) the response of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) A Core Group on Administrative Reforms (CGAR) was constituted on 19 February, 2003 to formulate specific changes in the systems and procedures in consultation with the Ministries/Departments concerned and

to devise strategies for changing attitudes. Core Group is headed by Cabinet Secretary with seven Secretaries of Government of India as Members.

2. The following areas were addressed by the Core Group in its deliberations:

(i) How to make the administration efficient and transparent?

(ii) How to make the administration responsive and citizen-friendly?

(iii) How to make the administration accountable?

(iv) Simplification of rules, regulations and procedures and creating public awareness about them

(v) Delegation of authority from 'nodal' Ministries to 'functional' Ministries, within the Ministries and from the Ministries to their field offices

(vi) Introducing e-governance in Central Government offices

(vii) Civil Service Reforms

(viii) Outsourcing of the work done in Government offices for efficiency, cost control and cutting down staff expenditure with specific focus on Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs).

3. The CGAR made recommendations in areas including (i) Accountability: Holding Department accountable for results and improving the service delivery, (ii) Civil Service Reforms covering areas like recruitment age, Curriculum recommendations, Mid-Career training and training of Chief Information Officers for managing e-governance projects, (iii) Central Staffing Scheme, (iv) Empanelment and domain allocation, (v) Allotment of cadre and service allocation, (vi) Civil Service Awards, (vii) Code of Ethics for Civil Servants, (viii) Model Code of Good Governance, (ix) State of Governance Report, (x) Protecting honest civil servants and weeding out the corrupt and incompetent officials, (xi) Protecting honest civil servants taking bona fide commercial decision from prosecution and post retirement harassment and (xii) Redrafting of Annual Confidential Reports.

4. Based on the decisions of the Committee of Secretaries, subsequently endorsed by the Core Group on Administrative Reforms, the Deptt. of Expenditure, Deptt. of Legal Affairs, Deptt. of Health, Planning Commission and Ministry of Civil Aviation have issued instructions further delegating their authorities to the functional Ministries. 20 items relating to DoPT were also approved for delegation.

5. CGAR tentatively identified 18 Core Mission Projects (8 under Central List and 10 under State List) under the National e-Governance Action Plan for implementation on priority basis. These are now being operationalised by the concerned Ministries/State Governments.

6. The Government has decided to constitute an Administrative Reforms Commission to prepare a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administration system. The Commission, while finalizing its recommendations, shall take into account recommendations made in the past by the various bodies including those made by CGAR.

Administrative Reforms Commission

3791. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI C. PERUMAL:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is proposed to appoint to set up the second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC);

(b) if so, the details thereof including its purpose, tenure, terms of reference, etc;

(c) by when the commission is likely to submit its report;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Commission is proposed to be set up under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 the purpose of which is altogether different; and

(e) the date when the first ARC was set up and whether some of its major recommendations were implemented together with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has decided to set up an Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) to prepare a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administration system. The notification constituting the Commission giving its composition, terms of reference, the timeframe for submitting its report etc. will be laid in the Parliament after it is issued.